



Illinois P-20 Council

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

10:00am – 3:30pm

National Center for Supercomputing Applications
University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign
1205 W. Clark St.
Urbana

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Urbana: Karen Hunter Anderson, Lizanne DeStefano, Roger Eddy, Erika Hunt, Deb Kasperski, Elaine Johnson, Geoff Obrzut, George Reid, Julie Smith, Al Phillips, Laurel Prussing, Brian Spittle (for Fr. Dennis Holtschneider), Audrey Soglin, Miguel del Valle, Matt Vanover (for Chris Koch), Eric Zarnikow

Phone: Cynthia Plouche, Melissa Mitchell (for Deb Strauss)

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions – Chairman del Valle & Chancellor Phyllis Wise

Chairman welcomed Council members and guests and thanked the University as well as Laurel as the mayor of Urbana for hosting the Council. Lastly, he thanked the Chancellor and Lizanne for making the opportunity possible.

II. Approval of Minutes – Chairman del Valle

Minutes were approved without correction or addition.

III. Learning Technologies Presentation – Chancellor Phyllis Wise, University of Illinois

Chancellor Wise was introduced and thanked for her willingness to address the Council.

She discussed the important role of education in developing global citizens who are able to think critically and employ a diverse and flexible skill set in an increasingly interconnected world. She pointed out that students today are in a unique position because not only are they likely to change professions an average of 3 times in a lifetime but more and more often young adults find themselves seeking education and employment opportunities abroad.

In an effort to provide opportunities for learners the world over, the University is engaged in a number of innovative initiatives such as the Mass Online Open Courses (MOOC's). Roughly 1 million students across 2 dozen universities have signed up to participate in these unique learning opportunities through Coursera. The University is a part of an exclusive consortium of

universities providing course offerings. First course led by University faculty was a sustainability course.

Eric Zarnikow inquired about the business model for the project. The Chancellor indicated that this is under development. At this point, courses are expected to remain free but certification or assessments may not be. While this opportunity is not likely to replace a campus experience, it does create an additional avenue to share the important work going on at the University with learners around the world who may never step foot on campus.

IV. University of Illinois President Bob Easter Address

President Easter thanked the Council for their important work and for visiting the University on such an important day as the anniversary of the LED which was developed on the campus. He encouraged Council members and guests to tour the campus, especially NCSA, and take advantage of the facilities the campus has to offer.

V. End of Year Committee Reports

a. Data, Assessment, and Accountability – Ben Boer

i. Action Item: Review and consideration of Longitudinal Data System resolution

Ben shared the work of the DAA Committee on convening discussions among stakeholders regarding LDS governance. Agencies have been engaged in an ongoing dialogue about the best approaches to a governing a data system. An agreed upon decision should be made by the June 30, 2013 deadline provided for in the statute.

Group has reviewed recommendations of the Data Quality Campaign as well as models of governance for similar systems in other states. Based on those discussions, the resolution was drafted to solidify the Council's commitment to establishing a governance structure.

Joyce Karon expressed concern with rushing a decision to be codified in legislation because of the difficulty of making any necessary modifications down the road. Chairman del Valle urged the Council to seriously consider the need for establishing a structure in statute to ensure transparency, accountability, and follow through moving forward. He then offered to remove the June 2013 deadline for creating legislation that establishes a governance structure for the LDS from the resolution. Perry Buckley supported that amendment. Karen Hunter Anderson, on behalf of Tom Ramage and the Illinois Community College Presidents Council, stated that their preference would be to establish an interagency agreement and allow time for implementation to see if there are any concerns which need to be addressed.

A date was removed from the resolution but was otherwise passed as presented.

b. School, College, and Career Readiness Committee – John Rico & Sharon Thomas Parrott

i. Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) Joint Work Group – Ben Boer

Ben provided a presentation on the ongoing work of the PWR Work Group to develop recommendations on enhancing and aligning the menu of college and career readiness options available to Illinois students. The group is made up of representatives from both the School, College, and Career Readiness Committee and the Data, Assessment, and Accountability Committee.

VI. Governor Quinn Remarks

Governor Quinn thanked Council for its outstanding work over the years and especially the presenters. The Governor expressed the importance of bolstering technological infrastructure in the state to support student learning, especially schools' broadband connections. He highlighted the work of the Broadband Deployment Council and the important role of education in ensuring a vibrant economy with highly skilled workers and business owners.

VII. E-Learning Initiatives in Illinois – Karen Hunter Anderson & Jeff Newell, IL Community College Board

ICCB shared information about their online course offerings and resources including test preparation guides. Jeff reiterated the Governor's comments about the important role of access to reliable and fast internet in providing educational opportunities for community college students. He noted that without access to broadband, ICCB cannot offer certain certificates because students are not able to access the necessary resources and materials for completion. He also mentioned that while some students are primarily engaged in online education, they often still come to the college to make use of computer labs to access needed software and the internet.

Council inquired about likelihood of cheating with online coursework. Jeff responded that while logins help, they are not full proof. He added that often times programs of study require a mix of online and face to face components which helps combat against possible cheating since the teacher and student develop a relationship and better understand the student's capacity.

VIII. Lunch & Site Tours

- a. Choice of: Advanced Visualization Lab, LED Anniversary Activities, Lincoln Hall

IX. E-Learning Initiatives in Illinois, continued –Jami Breslin, IL Math & Science Academy

Jami discussed IMSA's efforts to reach a broader group of students and educators through digital technologies. Offerings include online math and science modules for students as well as professional development seminars for educators.

Specifically, she mentioned the IMSA Fusion, a hands-on STEM program for 4th – 8th graders featuring supports for teachers including curricular materials and lab kits; and RISE, an individual

research initiative with modules for both students and teachers that compliments a residential summer program.

She noted that when students were allowed to work independently with online modules, on average they spent an extra 130 minutes on content.

IMSA is also in the process of developing an online STEM resource center.

Chairman inquired about virtual mentoring. Jami responded that this typically consists of online discussion threads, interactive chats, emails, and live webinars.

X. End of Year Committee Reports, continued

a. Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Committee – Erika Hunt & Audrey Soglin

i. Educator Licensure Work Group

Erika provided background on the creation of the group. The group was formed at the request of Superintendent Koch to make recommendations on ways to enhance the educator licensure system including grade span configuration and diversifying the teacher pipeline. She noted that a steering team was formed as well as a larger group to ensure broad representation from stakeholder groups.

She noted that a public hearing was held to form recommendations on grade span configuration to accompany ISBE's new licensure system. The group did not reach consensus but did provide 2 sets of recommendations. ISBE is expected to make a decision by the end of the year.

It was noted that ISBE's new system will eliminate the teacher certificate in favor of a professional educator license which will be issued electronically. Endorsements will be recorded in the system.

b. Family, Youth, and Community Engagement (FYCE) – Melissa Mitchell

Melissa presented on behalf of FYCE providing an update on plans for trainings around the School Report Card (SRC). The goal is to ensure that the SRC is used as effectively as possible for a tool for families and schools to engage with schools and educators. The Committee has spoken with ISBE about ways to work together to support the roll out of the new SRC. A presentation to accompany workshops is under development by FYCE in consultation with ISBE. They hope to have a draft presentation available by January.

Audrey indicated that the Illinois Education Roundtable would like to participate in discussions around what will be included in the workshops. They have reached out to ISBE to this end.

Matt Vanover from ISBE noted that they are working on inventory of data available to populate the SRC. The climate survey is also being developed.

c. Finance and Governance –Laurel Prussing

Laurel noted that the Committee has contacted Ralph Martire about exploring issues in which the Committee is interested. They have also been in touch with Lumina regarding a possible funding opportunity to support the work of the Committee.

The Committee would like to look into the issue of tax caps and their impact on financing education as well as other challenging topics.

XI. Agency Updates

a. IL State Board of Education – Matt Vanover

Agency has seen nearly \$900M in reductions over the past years. Additional cuts are anticipated in the coming year. Board has indicated that they are interested in possible adjustments to the General State Aid (GSA) formula to allow ensure proper funding for highest need students. GSA payments are currently being paid on time. Board is modeling a variety of scenarios to better understand the impacts of possible adjustments to the formula. Scenarios are expected to be reviewed in December.

Eddy inquired about impact of PTEL. Vanover indicated that ISBE would model different situations including changes to the PTEL caps.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver is pending. At this point, all states that have applied have been able to reach an agreement to enable them to receive a waiver. The US Department of Education has expressed concerns over the timeline associated with the implementation of educator evaluations. ISBE has remained firm on this timeline because it has been legislated after a great deal of discussion to reach consensus.

Common Core is moving forward in earnest this year. ISBE has worked closely with districts to provide guidance as well as professional learning opportunities. New assessments are to be implemented in 2014-15 to better align to the new standards. ISAT cut scores will be raised in the 2013 school year to ease the transition.

Over the summer, educator evaluation trainings were conducted in preparation for the roll out of the new evaluations. Online training presented some difficulties but 10,000 principals and administrators successfully completed training. These challenges provided an important lesson as we move towards PARCC which will also be web based.

Eddy inquired about anticipated costs of implementing PARCC. Vanover indicated that additional costs are expected.

Of the 2012 graduating class in the nine states which administer the ACT, Illinois had the highest percentage of students passing all 4 subject areas, a number which we increased.

b. IL Board of Higher Education – Dir. George Reid

Continued budget reductions are expected to be made. Deferred maintenance continues to be a problem. The shift in pension costs is also an area of concern.

Performance funding is underway with metrics continuing to focus on reducing time to degree and increasing completion. Completion has increased 2% points since 2010.

IBHE has inherited a new division which oversees the private business and vocational schools which are institutions that offer certificates. There are roughly 300 and IBHE hopes to work with them to support quality instruction and meaningful credentials.

Chairman del Valle noted that some proprietary institutions are eligible to accept federal financial aid. There are also a handful operating in Illinois receiving MAP funds. If not carefully regulated, these institutions have the potential to create student debt and certificates of little value in the labor market. ICCB noted that community colleges offer industry recognized credentials in communities throughout Illinois for affordable tuition and fees.

c. IL Community College Board – Pres. Geoff Obrzut, Karen Hunter Anderson, Elaine Johnson

Elaine noted that a list of selected projects for the Illinois Pathways Initiative was provided in the meeting materials.

Illinois is one of 5 states chosen by Gates to participate in the development of a model through the Accelerating Opportunities project. Eight community colleges throughout the state are a part of this effort which would help to integrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses with adult education to facilitate the attainment of stackable credentials. The goal is to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to facilitate the transition from postsecondary to workforce.

ICCB has also launched a public awareness campaign called A Million Reasons Why. More information available at www.facebook.com/illinoiscommunitycolleges

d. IL Student Assistance Commission – Dir. Eric Zarnikow

Director Zarnikow provided a brief update on the work and progress of the MAP Task Force, an advisory body established in statute to make recommendations on enhancing the MAP award distribution process.

e. IL Education Research Council – Dir. Janet Holt

XII. Investing in Education

a. CLASP Return on Investment Interactive Tool – Meegan Dugan-Bassett, Women Employed

Meegan briefly presented on this tool and its potential to support the work of the Council and state agencies. The tool enables users to estimate impact on state revenues in a variety of scenarios including changes in the high school graduation rate postsecondary completion rate. The tool is available online at:

http://www.clasp.org/resources_and_publications/flash/CPES%20ROI%20Tool/Illinois.swf

XIII. IL Educational Opportunities for Military Children Council Commissioner Nomination – Lizanne DeStefano

a. Action Item: Review and Consideration of Commissioner Candidate

Lizanne described the selection process which included a call for nominations, review of submissions by Selection Committee, and interviews. Selection Committee consisted of representatives from P-20 Council, FYCE Committee, Governor's Office, Lieutenant Governor's Office, ISBE, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Council members received a biography and position description for the recommended candidate, Brian Riegler, principal of Waukegan High School. Council endorsed candidate unanimously.

XIV. Discussion of 3rd Annual Report – Lizanne DeStefano

Committee co-chairs will be provided a template for submitting their report to provide uniformity among the information received. Committees will also be asked to update membership lists.

Reports are due December 1st. A draft will be provided in mid-January with a final draft for review and approval being presented at the P-20 Council meeting in January 2013.

XV. Other Business & Announcements

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2013.

XVI. Adjourn